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August 29, 2013

Peter Hahn, Director  
Seattle Department of Transportation

RE: Seattle Bicycle Master Plan Update - NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street

Dear Director Hahn:

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) is writing to you in regards to our previous comment letter on the Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) update, and specifically to address the concerns that have arisen from some in the community regarding the inclusion of a cycle track along NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street.

We understand that you have received a huge and diverse number of comments about this one proposed facility. Since the issues raised by the comments could pertain to other arterials and multi-modal corridor locations as well, we have decided that the issue warrants this follow-up comment letter.

Many of the concerns appear to be from local business owners and neighbors regarding the potential impacts of a cycle track on parking and potential increases in cut-through traffic. Although some of these concerns may merit consideration during implementation, SBAB feels at this time – without any design studies and/or design details available – it is best to continue to show the proposed cycle track facility along NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street on the BMP's network map.

We recognize that NE 65th Street may have some potential implementation challenges. Some portions of the roadway are narrow or steep. The roadway runs through several neighborhood business districts. However, the beginning of the design process would be the appropriate time to address these issues and potential tradeoffs. It would be reasonable to assume that "adjustments" to the network map may be required such as transitioning a cycle track to a traditional buffered bike lane in narrow areas, and/or use of a one-way cycle track on each side of the street where the grade is steep.

From a biking perspective, NE 65th Street is the most direct route through Northeast Seattle, connecting important neighborhoods, business districts, parks, schools, and future transit centers all the way from Magnuson Park to Green Lake Park. It is also one of the few potential bike routes that would safely cross I-5. Importantly, a cycle track along NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street would serve critical needs for riders of all ages and abilities, consistent with the goals of the BMP Update.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impact which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planing processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

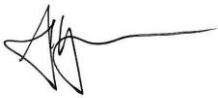
- City Council  
Resolution 25534

Since the issues that will need to be considered for NE 65th Street are similar to those for many projects in the BMP, perhaps additional text could be added to the discussion of implementation in the BMP update to highlight this cycle track as an example of the process that would be used to work through concerns and tradeoffs during project design. Citing NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street specifically as an example could be a way to acknowledge the community concerns, while also highlighting how this process would apply to other projects as well.

Thank you for your consideration of these additional comments on the BMP update. We hope you can find a way to reflect community input for NE 65th Street without compromising the integrity of the network map, which is intended to best support the goals of the BMP. Thus we feel that the BMP update should continue to include a cycle track on NE 65th Street.

As always, we greatly appreciate the Seattle Department of Transportation's efforts to transform Seattle into a city that works better for all its transportation uses including biking.

Sincerely,



Allegra Calder

Chair, Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board



Jessica Szelag

Vice Chair, Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

Cc: Members of the Seattle City Council  
Mayor Mike McGinn, City of Seattle  
Kevin O'Neill, SDOT  
Sara Zora, SDOT  
Dongho Chang, SDOT  
Members of the Northeast District Council